

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-05 SCS-03 SCCT-02 M-02

AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NIC-01

NSC-07 SP-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01

SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-04 DRC-01 /131 W

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O P 311736Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1209

INFO DOD FOR DIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

DIA WASH DC PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ PRIORITY

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE

SUBJ: PRESS TAKEOVER SPARKS CONTINUING ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: LIMA 6215 NOTAL

1. DEMONSTRATIONS BROKE OUT AGAIN LAST NIGHT IN LIMA RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS. MOTORISTS CRUISED AROUND THESE SUBURBS SOUNDING THE TWO LONG AND THREE SHORT HONKS OF BELAUNDE'S PARTY, ACCION POPULAR. IN DOWNTOWN MIRAFLORES DEMONSTRATORS ALSO BROKE WINDOWS IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED BANKS AND STORES, DID SOME LOOTING, LIT OCCASIONAL BONFIRES AND TRIED TO TIE UP TRAFFIC. SCUFFLES ENSUED WITH POLICE, WHO RESPONDED WITH TEAR GAS AND HAVE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED 500 PERSONS AND TEMPORARILY IMPOUNDED

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HUNDREDS OF CARS.

2. LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 150 PERSONS DEMONSTRATED AT MIDNIGHT JULY 31 AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, LOCATED IN SAN ISIDRO, BREAKING MANY WINDOWS THERE. THEY APPARENTLY ARRIVED BY CAR, THREW ROCKS AT THE EMBASSY, AND SPED AWAY. LA PRENSA REPORTS THAT THEY WERE DRIVING FANCY AUTOMOBILES BUT COULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED BECAUSE THE LICENSE PLATES WERE COVERED. SAME NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT A MIRAFLORES MUNICIPAL GARDENER WAS INJURED ON THE MORNING OF JULY 30 WHEN HE DISCOVERED AN ARTIFACT WHICH LOOKED LIKE A POLICE WHISTLE BUT WAS THE SIZE OF A BASEBALL. THE ARTIFACT EXPLODED WHEN THE GARDENER PICKED IT UP, INJURING HIM SERIOUSLY.

3. JULY 31 RADICAL EXPRESO HEADLINES THAT TWO AMERICANS WERE DETAINED FOR PARTICIPATING IN DISTURBANCES. THIS IS GROSSLY MISLEADING REFERENCE TO TWO AMERICAN TEENAGE EXCHANGE STUDENTS (15 YEAR OLD MELINDA SUE SHEROFF AND 16 YEAR OLD LYNNE IRIS GREENBERG) WHO DO NOT SPEAK SPANISH AND WERE DETAINED BY POLICE DURING DEMONSTRATIONS JULY 29. AMBASSADOR SECURED STUDENTS' RELEASE THE NEXT DAY. AN AMERICAN T.V. CAMERA CREW MEMBER, JANE BERGER, WAS ALSO DETAINED NIGHT OF JULY 29; SHE WAS RELEASED JULY 30 BUT HER FILM WAS CONFISCATED.

4. MILGOV IS EMPHASIZING THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME THAT "LUXURIOUS" NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE DEMONSTRATED; IN PAST, IT HAD BEEN SLUM AREAS. AUTHORITIES ALSO TRYING TO PORTRAY DEMONSTRATORS AS UNPATRIOTIC HIPPIES. POLICE HAVE CLAIMED THAT PERUVIAN FLAGS HAVE BEEN DESECRATED. THIS IS FALSE, ONE WIRE SERVICE REPORTER TOLD EMBOFF. BUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES TOLD SAME JOURNALIST: IF HE DID NOT BELIEVE GOVERNMENT REPORTS OF FLAG BURNING, IT WOULD BE EVIDENCE OF BIAS IN FAVOR OF DEMONSTRATORS. GOVERNMENT IS, NONETHELESS, ESSENTIALLY CORRECT IN CLAIMING THAT THESE ARE MIDDLE-CLASS BELAUNDISTA DEMONSTRATIONS. GRAFITTI HAVE APPEARED IN RESIDENTIAL SUBURBS EQUATING FORMER PRESIDENT BELAUNDE WITH LIBERTY AND CALLING FOR END TO VELASCO DICTATORSHIP.
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